



## Indiana Bicentennial Commission

### Board Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2014

#### Members Present:

Sarah Evans Barker  
Howard Cohen  
Steve Ferguson  
Tony George  
Lee Hamilton  
Jim Madison  
Mary McConnell  
Jim McCormick  
Senator Jim Merritt  
First Lady Karen Pence  
Ellen Rosenthal  
Becky Skillman

#### Staff:

Sam Alderfer  
Perry Hammock  
Rene' Stanley  
Deborah Wezensky

#### I. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Vincennes University -- President Dick Helton
- b. Special Presentation – First Lady Karen Pence recognized Fox Ridge Nature Park, Bicentennial Nature Trust project in Knox County. The First Lady's presentation of the BNT signage to Rama Sobhani, County Parks Director, included commission member Jim McCormick, and co-chairs Lee Hamilton and Becky Skillman.

#### II. Executive Director's Report

- a. Activity Update
  - IBC presentations to groups were presented. Their importance to expanding our efforts were noted.
  - County coordination is on target and progress is ongoing.
  - Marion and Allen county coordinators need to be identified.
  - The focus of the next round of county visits will be on counties without Bicentennial Legacy Projects.
- b. Progress on Key Metrics:
  - Marketing Update:
    - Since October 3, 2014 meeting, 32 media impressions
    - IBC News October issue distribution: 3,801, an increase of 34 recipients
    - Twitter: @Indiana2016 520 Tweets 1,044 followers
    - Instagram: INDIANA2016 392 posts 210 followers



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- c. Upcoming Activities:
  - New website enhancements and integration with other social media
  - Facebook to go live
  - Bicentennial Brown Bag Lunch, Madison, Indiana
  - Engage 400+ fourth graders on Statehood Day
- d. Goals:
  - Staffing support
  - Focus on nine (9) commission-approved projects
  - Endorsed legacy projects – 200 by December 2015
  - County coordinator visits – all 92 by October 31, 2014 – completed 87 counties
  - Galas – working to finalize contract with vendor
  - First budget hearing is November 20, 2014

### III. Committee Reports

- a. Endorsement – Ellen Rosenthal
  - 113 Applications submitted to the full Commission for endorsement as of today
  - 12 applications for endorsement were received for group five
  - 9 Counties represented -- Dubois and Randolph are first-time applicant counties:
  - 12 applications received by the October 30, 2014 deadline, two not recommended for endorsement: one for profit “United State of Indiana Bicentennial Apparel” suggested more appropriate for licensing and another “A Summer’s Walk through Indiana’s Rural Churches” is for profit and is from an individual.

Chair Rosenthal submitted 10 applications for the Commission’s endorsement. Steve Ferguson made a motion to approve the Committee’s recommendations on applications presented for endorsement and those denied. Senator Jim Merritt seconded the motion. The motion carried with no dissent.

- b. Bicentennial Nature Trust – Mark Becker, BNT Program Director
  - Applications under review: 13
    - 6 local parks
    - 3 land trusts
    - 2 trail systems
    - 2 DNR Fish and Wildlife initiated
  - Five new counties: Fountain, Hancock, Orange, Pulaski, and Whitley
  - 104 projects approved to date in 49 different counties
  - \$18.5 million BNT -- \$25.4 million match
  - Match ratio within this round: \$1 : \$1.37
  - 50 closed/completed



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- 5,376 acres (more than 8 square miles)

#### IV. New Business

- a. Spencer County Activity – Melissa Brockman, Spencer Bicentennial County Coordinator and Kendell Thompson, Superintendent, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
  - Preparations are underway to celebrate the Lincoln family’s arrival to Indiana in 1816. Partners include Lincoln State Park, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln Pioneer Village & Museum, Colonel Jones home, Lincoln Amphitheatre, Lincoln Landing, Town of Santa Claus, Scenic Lincoln Way, Saint Meinrad Archabbey, and Lincoln Ferry Park.
  - There are currently four endorsed Spencer County Bicentennial Legacy Projects and additional projects are in progress. One project involves the Lincoln cushaw squash being grown by youth to learn more Indiana and Lincoln history.
- b. Dubois County Activity – Kevin Manley, Dubois Bicentennial County Coordinator and Mary Ann Hayes, President of the Dubois County Historical Society
  - Activities underway include a map of historical markers, one-room school houses and early churches as well as the placement of a Toussaint Dubois plaque on the courthouse, a Bicentennial Legacy Project spearheaded by the Dubois County Historical Society.
- c. Knox County Activity – Mark Hill, Knox Bicentennial County Coordinator
  - Activities include adding a buffalo theme for the 2015 Rendezvous and for 2016 John Small, the maker of the Indiana’s state gun. Plans also include a 50-year anniversary celebration of the George Rogers Clark National Park and Grouseland rehabilitation.
- d. Pike County Activity – Alycia Church, Pike Bicentennial County Coordinator
  - Pike County also celebrates its bicentennial in 2016. Monthly events are being planned. Legacy projects include Girl Scouts reading Indiana-related books to young Hoosiers, a legacy quilt project and a county tractor club event with a historic emphasis. Diverse additional projects are in the works.
- e. Gibson County Activity – Eric Heidenreich, Gibson Bicentennial County Coordinator
  - Gibson County has an endorsed legacy project, a video involving the reading of Indiana poetry by county residents. Stanley Madison, Lyles Station, was introduced. Work is underway to incorporate Lyles Station history into the Indiana African American Trail. The county anticipates the upcoming Torch Relay in the fall of 2016.
- f. Daviess County Activity – Samantha Bobbitt, Daviess Bicentennial County Coordinator
  - There is growing interest in Indiana’s bicentennial celebration. The town of Washington and the county are also celebrating 200<sup>th</sup> birthdays in



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2016. Applications for endorsement for existing festivals such as the Turkey Trot and Old Settlers Days are being prepared. The creation of a park near the Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area is being explored in collaboration with Martin County. Many discussions surround the 2016 Torch Relay.

#### V. Old Business

##### a. Capital Projects Update – Jason Larrison, State Architect, Indiana Department of Administration

- Timelines for the Bicentennial Plaza and the Education and Welcome Center will be presented to the commission at the January 16, 2015 meeting.
- Concepts for the Education and Welcome Center have been forwarded to appropriate staff for review.

##### b. Torch Relay Progress – Mark Newman, Executive Director, Indiana Office of Tourism Development

- A Bicentennial County Coordinator torch relay handbook is being created for Distribution on December 1, 2014.
- The handbook will include torch bearer routes and the torch bearer nomination process.
- Governor Mike Pence will officially announce the Bicentennial Torch Relay from the Statehouse rotunda on December 11, 2014 at 1:30 pm.

#### VI. Open Discussion

The next meeting Indiana Bicentennial Commission meeting:

January 16, 2015 – 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Location: Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site

1230 North Delaware Street, Indianapolis Indiana 46202